

Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS)

The Goals of FUDS cleanup include the following:

- Identification, investigation, and removal of hazardous waste contamination.
- Correction of other environmental damage; such as, detection and disposal of unexploded ordnance
- Demolition and removal of unsafe buildings and structures.

To be eligible for cleanup under the FUDS program, a site must have been owned, leased, or possessed by the Department of Defense, or under its jurisdiction at the time the contamination occurred. The hazards must be the result of defense-related activities at the site.

Examples of sites which are ineligible for cleanup under FUDS include cemeteries, areas outside United States jurisdiction, Corps of Engineers civil works sites, sites contaminated by acts of war, and areas without historical records.

Program Management

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is the Department of Defense Executive Agent for the FUDS program. Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, develops the overall FUDS program policies and provides funding to the geographic Corps districts and divisions who will perform the FUDS cleanup.

Funding is established according to the priority of the sites being considered for cleanup. Sites which present the greatest potential risk to human health are assigned the highest priority.

Cleanup efforts have no predefined time limits. Every FUDS action is unique, and the duration of the cleanup project depends on several factors, such as:

- Size of the project site
- What activities are required
- How much funding is available

Phases/Public Involvement

The FUDS program is implemented in three major phases:

- **Inventory Phase** — reviewing historical records for the site to determine FUDS eligibility and to determine the severity of the potential environmental problems.
- **Study Phase** — conducting a site visit and contamination evaluation to define the types of hazards that exist and, through stakeholder consensus, recommend cleanup alternatives.
- **Response** — removal, neutralization, and remediation of the site hazards. (Removals may be performed during any phase, if warranted.)

The FUDS cleanup is complete when a post-cleanup inspection verifies that contamination reduction goals developed by the stakeholders have been reached.

The key to successful FUDS cleanup is the teamwork between the Corps, Federal and State/local regulatory agencies, and the local community. Public meetings, workshops, and personal contacts provide valuable information to the project's decision-makers. Feedback to the public is provided through public awareness programs and publication of project documents for public review and comment. In many communities, a Restoration Advisory Board is established to review the progress of the FUDS project and to provide additional communication between the Corps and the community. This board is jointly chaired by representatives from the Corps and the local community.

FUDS

Cleaning Up Formerly Used Defense Sites

The Defense Environmental Restoration Program includes the provisions for cleaning up Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS). This comprehensive program is dedicated to the goal of removing environmental contamination at sites formerly owned, leased, possessed, or otherwise under the jurisdiction of the Department of Defense at the time of their contamination.

FUDS are found in every part of the United States and its territories. Many of the sites are now schools, recreation areas, farmlands, residential areas, and commercial properties. Because of the potential risks to the public at FUDS, Congress gave the Department of Defense its authority for cleaning up these sites by establishing the Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP) in 1986.

FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES



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